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Fork-tailed Petrels

There is no better antidote for a languishing interest in bird-observing than a report that an unusual species has been seen in one's own locality on several occasions by trustworthy observers. This was the case when one of our members, Frank G. Watson, saw a Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) off shore about opposite Fleishhacker Pool on our August field trip and also another along the Marina, September 11th.

With the hope of recapturing that thrill which we had enjoyed frequently in our early days of birding (sometimes seeing several new species on a single trip), Mrs. Stephens and I drove over to the Marina, September 12th, before dinner and parked and waited, binoculars in hand. After watching for an hour and seeing many things besides petrels:—the bridge, the beautiful brown hills of Marin County, variously tinted by the setting sun, ships, yachts, fishermen, and happy children playing along the beach, we decided to give up and console ourselves with the thought that we had anyway spent a pleasant hour amid a beautiful scene. Then just as I was about to step on the starter, a swiftly moving object, just off shore, caught my eye! Excitedly, I exclaimed, "What's that?" The binoculars caught up with it. Positively it was a Fork-tailed Petrel. Immediately another came into view. To our great delight, both skimmed the waves close in for more than ten minutes, when they vanished as suddenly as they had appeared. Their dangling feet when close to the water gave the appearance of walking on the waves perfectly, from which mannerism they are supposed to have received their name, which according to Webster is probably a diminutive of Peter—in allusion to St. Peter's walking on the sea (Matthew 14:29).

Albert B. Stephens, San Francisco, California. September 15, 1941.



Other recent observations are as follows:

One seen on August 10th, and five on September 7th, off Point Reyes, Marin County, by Frank G. Watson.

Four seen off the Berkeley fishing pier, September 9th, by Herman G. Leffler.

Five seen off the Berkeley fishing pier, September 12th, by Junea W. Kelly.



Duck Hawk Versus Forster Tern

On Tuesday morning, September 1, 1941, I was watching the birds in the Berkeley Aquatic Park area and more especially the Forster Terns (*Sterna forsteri*), of which there were over one hundred, sitting on the log booms or flying over the park. One of these was being chased by a Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus*). The falcon, gaining altitude over the tern, swooped down upon it, both birds going into a fast nose-dive until almost touching the water, when they

straightened out and began climbing again. This procedure was repeated a number of times. The hawk never touched the tern and did not seem to actually try to strike. It looked to me more like a game than a serious chase.

After about ten minutes the hawk moved on to the other end of the park and chased another tern in the manner just described. Several minutes later it left the area of the park.

Monique L. Nichols, Berkeley, California. September 17, 1941.



Ravens in San Francisco

In the August GULL there is a note regarding Raven records in San Francisco which covered every month except September. I am now glad to mention three records for this month: two Ravens seen at Land's End, September 13th, and two flying over Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, September 27th, by Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens, and one at Land's End, September 27th, by Arthur H. Myer. (Editor.)



September Field Trip

The September field trip was taken to Alameda, Bay Farm Island, Leslie Salt Works, and Dumbarton Bridge Approach on Sunday, the 14th. The day was pleasant. High tide at Fort Point was 3.9 feet at 6:58 a.m. and low tide was 3 feet at 11:34 a.m. Because of the high low tide only a small area of mud flat and shore line was free of water. On account of defense activity on Bay Farm Island the party could not drive to Radio Range. A few persons walked to the place along the garbage dump road and were rewarded by seeing a flock of 350 Black-bellied Plovers, some of the individuals still being in summer plumage.

A Long-billed Curlew was walking on the golf course evidently eating insects. It seemed strange to see this bird come out from behind a Monterey pine tree. Six Knots were feeding near the road, contrasting well with Dowitchers and a Black-bellied Plover.

At Dumbarton Bridge a Snowy Plover seemed to enjoy the sport of running and stirring up myriads of brine flies (*Ephydra*). The sandpipers and Northern Phalaropes were content with quietly feeding on these same flies. Many Least Sandpipers obtained their supply from the pavement.

Forty-four species were observed, as follows:

White Pelican	Snowy Plover	Ring-billed Gull
Farallon Cormorant	Long-billed Curlew	Bonaparte Gull
California Heron	Hudsonian Curlew	Caspian Tern
American Egret	Willet	Forster Tern
Mallard	Greater Yellow-legs	Belted Kingfisher
Pintail	Knot	Horned Lark
Ruddy Duck	Least Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Dowitcher	Shrike
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Sandpiper	Yellow-throat
Marsh Hawk	Marbled Godwit	Meadowlark
Sparrow Hawk	Sanderling	Brewer Blackbird
Clapper Rail	Avocet	House Sparrow
Coot	Northern Phalarope	House Finch
Black-bellied Plover	Western Gull	Savannah Sparrow
Killdeer	California Gull	

Members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Millard; Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds; Mesdames Enid Austin, Kelly; Misses Blake, Berg, Cohen, Danz, Johnson, MacIver, Papina, Roscoe, Watanabe and Webb; Messrs. Harwell, Heyneman, Kirker, Leffler, Provoo and Roush. There were also seven guests present.

Junea W. Kelly, Leader and Historian.

National Audubon Society Activities in California

This summer your California representative was given the opportunity of visiting and studying Audubon activities outside the state. The trip was planned so that I drove through Arizona and Texas, where I spoke before Audubon and other natural history groups at Tucson, El Paso, Houston and Dallas. I participated in the Wildlife Tours conducted by Bob Allen of Audubon staff at Rockport, Texas, and visited a number of the Audubon Sanctuaries off the Texas coast. The car was left at Dallas and train taken to New York and Maine, where I attended a two-week session of the Audubon Nature Camp for the training of adult leaders.

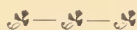
Returning to New York, I consulted with Mr. John H. Baker, our Executive Director, and others of the headquarters staff. Members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be interested in the following plans agreed upon for this year in California.

The establishment of an Audubon Nature Camp here is uppermost in our mind. A number of desirable sites have been investigated and if plans now well under way are consummated, we will be able to announce this fall the opening of the camp in California in June, 1942.

Wildlife Tour localities will be the same as last season. Marysville will be the headquarters for the nine Sacramento Valley Tours to be conducted during the month of November. This month was chosen to guarantee the greatest concentration of ducks and geese and at the same time the best weather conditions. Some of you will remember how we were rained out last February! To make it possible for more teachers and office workers to participate, we will run the tours each Saturday-Sunday, with a second tour each week on Monday-Tuesday. Circulars describing these tours will be in your hands soon. Indio will again be starting point for the fourteen Palm Springs-Salton Sea Tours, which will start Saturday, March 7, 1942, and close Tuesday, April 21.

The second annual convention of the National Audubon Society and its California affiliated societies will be held at Santa Barbara, January 23-25, 1942. So start now saving money and these dates. You won't want to miss this pleasant and profitable meeting.

C. A. (Bert) Harwell, California Representative.



Observations

The following are some observations made since the last meeting and sent in by:

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly: Berkeley Aquatic Park, two Pomarine Jaegers, September 18th; Alameda, Gambel Sparrows, 24th; Golden Gate Park, Black-throated Gray Warbler, 27th.

Arthur H. Myer: San Francisco, end of California Street near tennis courts, three Black-throated Gray Warblers; near Land's End, Audubon and Townsend Warblers; Mockingbird, Red-tailed Hawk; Sutro Heights, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Townsend Warblers; Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, Bittern, September 27th.

Mrs. Albert B. Stephens: From Thornton Beach and south for eight miles, thousands of Sooty Shearwaters flying north; Golden Gate Park, Audubon and Townsend Warblers, Golden-crowned and Fox Sparrows, September 21st.

Audubon Notes

October Meeting: Note change of meeting place. The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 9th, at 8 p.m., in the Auditorium of the San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Mr. Bert Harwell will be the speaker, taking for his subject "California Wildlife Tours," illustrated with Kodachromes and by a reel of motion pictures in color showing some of the beautiful birds and some of the activities of the tours. He will also do some whistling of the songs of the birds.

- Members may bring guests.



October Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 12th, to East Bay Regional Park district. The plan is to follow the upper road toward Orinda and return via San Pablo Dam. As this will be an automobile trip, will the members please notify Miss Frances J. Blake, 1505 Holly Street, Berkeley, as to whether they have or need transportation?

No trains run on Sunday, so San Francisco members will take "F" bus on Natoma Street back of the San Francisco Terminal, leaving about 8:50 a.m., transfer to Spruce Street No. 67 bus on University Avenue, and ride to end of line. Bring luncheon.



September Meeting: The 289th regular meeting was held on Thursday, the 11th, in the Old Mint Building, with thirty-six members and guests present. President James Moffitt presiding.

The name of Miss Alta G. Webb was proposed for membership.

The following observations were reported: Off Stinson Beach, Marin County, August 31st, thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, by John Roush.

Lake Merced: two Dowitchers, August 23rd, three Baldpates, one female Pintail, Western Sandpipers, 300± Northern Phalaropes, Lark Sparrow (new species for the lake and also for San Francisco); Golden Gate Park: Anthony Green Heron, Wood Pewee, six Calaveras Warblers, two Yellow-throats, September 9th; Los Altos, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, September 2nd, by Mr. and Mrs. Stephens.

Mr. Joe T. Marshall gave a most interesting and instructive talk on the "Owls of California." He also gave the calls of many of them. We were sorry when he finished.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. James Moffitt.....	California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer and Editor.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco
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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 p.m., Little Theatre, Old U. S. Mint Building,
Fifth and Mission Streets.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.